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Superspy Debate

Raborn Resignation Tied To CIA Watchdogs

Ever since 1956, powerful members of the U. S. Senate have sought to create 'watchdog' committees to oversee activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, superspies of the government. The argument, waxing warm again as recently as a month ago, has been that the CIA sets foreign policy for this nation by its activities throughout the world.

ADM. RABORN

The surprise resignation of Adm. William F. Raborn as director of the CIA on Saturday can only be assumed to be closely related to the heated debate between Senators Russell of Georgia, and Fulbright of Arkansas, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, over control of the 20-year-old agency.

Fulbright is aggravated because Raborn refused to answer questions about the sensitive CIA put to him by members of the committee. Russell defended Raborn, saying there has never been a harmful leak from his own Armed Services Committee group, which keeps an eye on the CIA, but that "confidential information passes through some committees as if they were sieves."

The Foreign Relations Committee approved a resolution on May 16 to create a selective committee in intelligence operations. This amounts to a 'muscling in' by Fulbright's committee and Russell is hardly expected to surrender any of his own committee's authority. Floor debate has been postponed while a compromise is sought.

Raborn, on the job only a year, may be an innocent victim but several recent developments angered the opposition in the Senate.

One was disclosure that CIA agents infiltrated a Government-financed Michigan State University project in South Viet Nam, a second that an employe of the CIA authored a recent article in the Foreign Affairs magazine, entitled "The Faceless Viet Cong," and the third case involved a CIA admission that it ordered one of its agents to publicly label an Estonian emigre leader as a "Soviet spy" during a controversial Federal court case in Baltimore.

Fulbright feels these are typical instances of interference on the part of the CIA which should not be condoned by this government. Adm. Raborn may be the sacrificial lamb.

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